Engineer, Mysore. At present detailed survey to bring forth a definite scheme and estimates is being done by the Special officer deputed for the purpose.

(3) Estimates are in the course of preparation. Field work for the power canal, forebay site, and pipe line has been completed.

(4) Government do not think that it would be in the public interest to place the reports on the table at present.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, Sir, whether Mr. Menon has any experience of investigating Hydro-Electric Schemes before?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It must be clearly understood that Mr. K. B. Menon is not conducting an independent investigation. He is only making detailed surveys for the preparation of estimates indicated by the original investition.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Am I to take it that the original investigation made a survey?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—But not detailed enough to prepare estimates.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whether no estimate is sent to the British Westinghouse Co.?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. Only cost reports.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No data in the cost report how they have been arrived at?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—By approximate data. They took an approximation and submitted a cost report. But before making detailed estimates we have to take the level, the nature of the country, etc., and then prepare detailed estimates.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Has Mr. Menon any experience in this line?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—He has experience enough for conducting surveys.

Cochin Tanneries.

102. Mr. A. B. Salem.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of the original suit instituted against the Cochin Tanneries Ltd., by Government;

(2) what is the total amount claimed in the said suit;

(3) how long the case has been pending in the court;

(4) what is the present stage of the suit;

(5) has the Government caused the Tanneries at Chalakkudi to be inspected to see whether the amount due to Government can be recovered by the present assets of the Company;

(6) will the Government be further pleased to state why no steps have been taken to liquidate the concern in the interest of all the share-holders?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) O. S. No. 173/1105.

(2) Rs. 1,69,094—1—3.

(3) The suit was filed on 15th Mithunam 1104.

(4) The 10th defendant contests the suit. He has already examined 2 witnesses. The case stands adjourned to 17th Vrischigam 1106 for recording the rest of the evidence.

(5) No.

(6) Since the question of personal liability is also involved in this matter the procedure referred to was not adopted.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The suit was filed on 15th Mithunam 1104. May I know when the Government applied for the Receiver?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The court appointed a Receiver two months ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—And Mr. Kurup was relieved?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—He was not relieved?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—His contract terminated in April 1930, I think.

Mr. V. K. Aravindkasha Menon.—Perhaps.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What was the difficulty in answering about the question of inter regnum, the intervening period?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That was so.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That period is clear now—about four or five months.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

103. Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to answer:—

(a) whether they have instituted a suit against the Cochin Tanneries Ltd., for recovering the amounts due to the Government from the Company, if so when and what is the amount sued for;

(b) what is the amount of costs already incurred by the Government in this connection and how much more will have to be spent by way of Vakil's fee, etc;

(c) did the Government make any written demand of the Company for payment before instituting the suit;

(d) why was the course of instituting a suit adopted when the cheaper remedy of a petition for winding-up could have been availed of by the Government; was the latter course suggested to the Government by its legal advisors;

(e) does the Government know whether the Company is able to pay its dues without selling the plant, machinery, etc.;

(f) is the company a going concern at present?

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